Nixon Says 'Entire Truth' Is Object of Investigation

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KEY BISCAYNE, Fla., April 20—President Nixon arrived here today for the Easter holidays after a morning Cabinet meeting at which he emphasized that the objective of the Watergate investigation was to discover "the entire truth of the matter."

The White House press secretary, Ronald L. Ziegler, the only one of the top Presidential aides to accompany Mr. Nixon, said also that the President had instructed "everyone in the Administration, everyone in Government to cooperate fully with the ongoing investigation and the grand jury."

In reply to reporters' questions, Mr. Ziegler said that he could not predict whether Mr. Nixon would concern himself with the Watergate affair during the weekend. Mr. Ziegler answered simply, "No," when asked if H. R. Haldeman, as rumored, had resigned as the President's chief of staff.

Dean Departure Possible

As for other White House resignations, Mr. Ziegler said, "There's no change from what I said yesterday." He refused to reply to questions about whether or not John W. Dean 3d, the White House counsel, was at his office today, saying: "I don't want to go over that kind of dialogue again."

Mr. Dean has been named as one of those directly involved in planning the Watergate operation. Although he has said publicly that he will not resign, his departure from the White House is believed likely.

In reply to another question, Mr. Ziegler said the President did not talk to former Attorney General John N. Mitchell today. Mr. Ziegler said Mr. Nixon did

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talk by telephone with Assistant Attorney General Henry E. Petersen, whom he has assigned to head a new investigation of the Watergate affair.

Mr. Nixon spent several minutes chatting and shaking hands with some of the 200 persons who greeted him on his arrival at Homestead Air Force Base near here at 2:58 P.M. But when a reporter tried to put a question to him about Watergate, a White House official immediately stepped between the President and the reporter. Mr. Nixon did not reply to the question.

Absences Bring Questions

Mr. Ziegler was asked about the President's mood. He replied only that Mr. Nixon had studied papers during the flight from Washington. But it was the President, Mr. Ziegler said, who raised the Watergate issue at the morning Cabinet meeting, at which he emphasized that "the objective is to develop facts and the entire truth of the matter."

The absence here of Mr. Haldeman, and of John D. Ehrlichman, Mr. Nixon's other top domestic aide, was the subject of other questions. Mr. Ziegler said both men were spending the holidays at home with their families and "perhaps" would join Mr. Nixon here next week. In the past, the two have often brought their families to Key Biscayne for such holidays.

The President was accompanied by his wife, Pat, their daughters, Mrs. Edward F. Cox and Mrs. David Eisenhower and Lieutenant Eisenhower.

The press secretary announced that Mr. Nixon would fly to Meridian, Miss., next Friday to dedicate the John Stennis Center, named for the Senator at a Navy air station there.